1. Could you help us quantify the requirement for "three references for projects of equal or greater size performed for organizations with networks of equal or greater size?"

Answer: The STATE will review previous projects noted by vendor. As a part of this the STATE will review network size of previous projects, and size of scope.

2. How many core routers are in the network?

Answer: 6

3. What is the total number of routing devices in the network?

Answer: Approximately 1100

4. Is our assumption correct that the network topology diagrams are limited to the wide area network?

Answer: Yes

5. Has the number of sites decreased from the original solicitation?

Answer: No

6. Are the total number of sites 1100?

Answer: yes

7. Are there any deletions or changes in scope from the initial RFP?

Answer: There is no major change in direction, but Vendors need to read the document carefully..

8. Topology discovery, traffic flows, help desk interviews, NOC design are required as in the original RFP?

Answer: Yes

9. Does the Rebid RFP combine the survey work for three separate networks (data, voice, video) into one task?

Answer: Yes

10. It is our understanding from the original State of Alabama "Next Generation Network" RFP Q&A session that access to detailed network topology diagram and network cost information will be released to the successful bidder. Assuming this is still the case, how does the state expect bidders to provide detailed itemized task, hours, and

pricing data without this information? Please confirm that the state will accept a higher level committed task and price breakdown for this RFP (based on similar other engagements) which can be followed with detailed itemized tasks and pricing post award to the successful bidder.

Answer: We will accept a higher level committed task and price breakdown. However the State will not negotiate above the state $500,000 cap.

11. Please confirm that the responses to the original RFP Q&A sessions are still valid. If not, please identify any changes.

Answer: All questions and answers are still valid unless specifications of the new RFP conflict with them.

12. How many Centers/Organizations are to be assessed in this request and where are they located?
    o   Network Support (Control Centers)
    o   Care Centers (Back Office, help Desks, etc)
    o   Maintenance
    o   Engineering

Answer: The above groups are located in Montgomery, and there is one of each.

13. Are all the Support Centers service specific or does each center support all services?

Answer: Currently they are service specific.

14. Are there common support systems utilized across the centers or does each center utilize different tools?

Answer: Currently different systems

15. Are all processes currently documented?
    o   Does this include documentation for all FCAPS processes as well as processes for the implementation and maintenance teams?
        Answer: The State does not understand the question.
    o   Is there a high level of automation within the processes?
        Answer: No, not today.
    o   Can the assumption be made that if detailed process and M&P's are required that they will be produced in the implementation phase?
        Answer: Yes

16. What Business Practices exist today, and will they be made available?
    o   Formal Interface Agreements
    o   Formal Service Level Agreements

Answer: Very few exist, and they will be made available.

17. There are a total of three pricing templates supplied by the State. Please provide the description and use of "ngn-rfp-manhour-pricing-sheet-091905.xls" as there is no reference to this template in the RFP. Also is it mandatory?

Answer: The following verbiage will be added to the RFP:

Paragraph 17.

C.   RFP ITEMIZED MANHOUR COST CATALOG PRICE SHEET. This sheet(s) will be used by the vendors to provided detailed itemized pricing, item numbers, and descriptions of the various types of personnel cost associated with all TASKS specified in Section 2 - Scope of Services. In preparing the TASK DETAILED PRICE SHEET, all personnel cost entered on this price form must be defined and priced, using the RFP ITEMIZED MANHOUR COST CATALOG PRICE SHEET pricing entries for the particular type of personnel being used to address the specific task(s). This will allow the State to compute additional/reduced manpower cost as necessary after award of the RFP.

18. Per the RFP section 7 – Submissions of proposals it states that response to the RFP by a vendor must be in ink or typed, and follow RFP format. Please provide the description of the RFP format requirements. Also can the State supply vendor with the RFP document in Microsoft Word format?

Answer: The responses should flow in the same order as the RFP document. The State should not have to look for your answers. The State will not provide the document in MS Word format. However, it will be posted on the website in PDF.

19. Is a physical inventory required? If so, how many sites will be visited to perform said inventory.

Answer: A physical inventory is not required.

20. Please confirm our assumption that logical inventory access to all three networks (IP Data, Voice, and Video Conferencing) via probes can occur from a single location in Montgomery, AL. If this assumption is not correct, how many sites will need to be visited and in what locations to perform the logical inventory?

Answer: The IP Data network is assessable, the voice and video are not. The State will provide a valid database of voice and video sites.

21. What, if any security restrictions will be placer on the protocols used in the logical collection process.

Answer: The State will discuss this with the winning bidder upon award.

22. Please confirm that all ports will be open/pass through on the routers for discover will provide a valid database of voice and video sites.

Answer: The State will work with the winning bidder to allow appropriate access.

21. What, if any security restrictions will be placer on the protocols used in the logical collection process.

Answer: The State will discuss this with the winning bidder upon award.

22. Please confirm that all ports will be open/pass through on the routers for discover purposes.

Answer: The State will work with the winning bidder to allow appropriate access.

23. Are there any non-IP devices that will require discover? If so, locations?

Answer: No.

24. Please confirm that we will be permitted to place our collection device directly onto the network.

Answer: The State will work with the winning bidder to allow appropriate access.

25. What period of historical data collection is expected for the performance analysis?

Answer: 30 Days

26. Is NTP enabled on the network? Is so – are the clocks set to local time or UTC? How many time zones are spanned by the network?

Answer: It is enabled. Clocks are set to local time with daylight savings time enabled.

27. How many total nodes are expected to be surveyed?

Answer: No nodes are expected to be physically surveyed. All nodes that can be reached are expected to be logically or remotely surveyed.

28. Do you have the maintenance cost and current inventory in XLS of CSV format?

Answer: Yes

29. When was the last time that the network architecture data was updated and verified?

Answer: This year

30. What is the degree of confidence in the completeness and accuracy of the available network architecture data?

Answer: High degree of completeness

31. Are topology diagrams available for the current networks?

Answer: Yes

32. Will the contractor be able to have unrestricted access to the entire network (through the firewalls) in order to use network tools? (i.e. a sniffer tool)?

Answer: The State will provide appropriate access. The State will negotiate access from outside the firewall, but will not guarantee it.

33. Is the State's Emergency Operation's Center to be included in the study?

Answer: As a network user, yes.